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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086301
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S E C R E T STATE 086301

EXDIS EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, KS, RP, SN, MY

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN THE EA AREA

1. THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN EAST ASIA LED OFF OUR APRIL 15 WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT TO THE SECRETARY:

2. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN THE EAST ASIA AREA

THE PAST WEEK HAS SEEN CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY IN FURTHERING HUMAN RIGHTS IN EAST ASIA. BOTH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO ROKG OFFICIALS ON THE MYONGDONG CASE. SNEIDER MADE A VERY STRONG REPRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT PARK URGING ACTION ON THE MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS AND IMPLIED THAT WE COULD NOT GO ON MUTING OUR PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE ROK.

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HOLBROOKE RAISED THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY IN A 20 MINUTE MEETING WITH THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND AT A RECEPTION HE POINTEDLY SPENT TIME TALKING TO TWO OF THE MYONGDONG DEFENDENTS. HE ALSO ANSWERED A LETTER FROM THE WIFE OF KIM DAE JUNG WHO HAD WRITTEN HIM EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

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SNEIDER HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THE MYONGDONG CASE WITH

THE HEAD OF THE KCIA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AN ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT PARK STRESSING THAT LENIENCY IN THIS CASE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL FOR KOREA'S IMAGE IN THE US. THE KOREAN RESPONSES DURING THE WEEK HAVE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING, BUT SNEIDER STILL FEELS THAT WE HAVE A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF SOME HELPFUL ACTION.

IN INDONESIA, HOLBROOKE AND AMBASSADOR NEWSOM ARE ALSO STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE ISSUE WITH GOI LEADERS DURING HOLBROOKE'S VISIT THERE. IN ADDITION, WE PERSUADED THE GOI TO A VISIT TO EAST TIMOR BY TWO SEPARATE CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES TO LOOK INTO ALLEGED KILLINGS DURING THE 1975 INDONESIAN INTERVENTION AND THE CURRENT SITUATION ON THE ISLAND.

IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS WHICH CONTAINED A REQUEST FOR MARCOS' ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP IN WASHINGTON BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY'S CALLING IN THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE HIM A COPY OF THE LETTER AND STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO THIS ISSUE. OAKLEY ALSO TESTIFIED ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES BEFORE REPRESENTATIVE LONG'S HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE LAST WEEK. HOLBROOKE WILL RAISE THIS ISSUE DURING HIS APRIL 17-19 VISIT TO MANILA.

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APPARENTLY ACCURATE REPORTS ALSO SURFACED DURING THE WEEK THAT SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN HELD FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT TRIAL IN BOTH SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA. WE DISPATCHED CABLES TO OUR EMBASSIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES SUGGESTING THAT THEY REITERATE THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL AND RAISE THE PROBLEM OF THESE PRISONERS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA

THE KOREAN CIA HAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED AT LEAST NINE INDIVIDUALS WHO SIGNED A "CHARTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL SALVATION" ISSUED MARCH 22, INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF THEY WILL BE HELD FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME OR RELEASED FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL TENSE PERIOD SURROUNDING THE APRIL 19 ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1960 STUDENT UPRISING. IF THEY ARE HELD, WE WILL

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BE FACED WITH A MOST UNHELPFUL DEVELOPMENT IN OUR EFFORTS
TO GET SOME ROKG MODERATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

4. BESIDES THE HUMAN RIGHTS ITEMS WE REPORTED TO THE
SECRETARY ON CODEL BRADEMAS/SCHWEIKER, TAIWAN ACCEPTANCE
OF OUR NUCLEAR REPRESENTATION AND US/SRV NEGOTIATIONS.
YOU HAVE ALREADY RECIEVED OUR GIST OF THESE ITEMS.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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